

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 774

By Goins

A RESOLUTION to commend the *Citizen Tribune* upon its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those exemplary newspapers that endeavor to provide exceptional news coverage to their readership; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding newspaper is the *Citizen Tribune*, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, the *Citizen Tribune* began as a single daily and Sunday newspaper in Morristown on September 6, 1966, with R. Jack Fishman as editor and publisher; and

WHEREAS, with the support of local businesses and an encouraging board of directors, the afternoon paper quickly unseated the established morning newspaper in the market and thrived, serving the eight-county region known as the Lakeway Area; and

WHEREAS, throughout the past fifty years, the *Citizen Tribune* has grown to a circulation reaching nearly 20,000 each weekday and more than 25,000 on Sunday; and

WHEREAS, as the paper grew, Mr. Fishman and the *Tribune* became advocates for community journalism, joining newspaper groups like the Tennessee Press Association (TPA) and the National Newspaper Association, among others, with Mr. Fishman often taking a leadership role; and

WHEREAS, the paper became an Associated Press (AP) member, and Mr. Fishman eventually served on the AP board, helping to shape the future of newspapers alongside some of the most important newspaper chains in the country; and

WHEREAS, for the past fifty years, however, the *Tribune's* impact truly has been at home. The paper has been a firm supporter of local nonprofit agencies like the Daily Bread, the

Boys and Girls Club, New Hope Recovery Center, and many more; each Christmas, the newspaper operates the Holiday Hope Fund, a community fundraiser, which raises approximately \$100,000 annually for a Christmas dinner and presents for those in need in the community; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, the *Tribune* has been recognized by organizations like the TPA and the AP, which hold annual contests for excellence in journalism; since 1966, the *Citizen Tribune* has been honored in categories ranging from promotion and circulation to advertising, news coverage, writing, photography, community lifestyles, and much more; and

WHEREAS, the tradition for excellence established by R. Jack Fishman has continued under the leadership of his son, R. Michael Fishman, who now serves as editor and publisher of the *Citizen Tribune* and, along with his brother Jeff Fishman, as vice president for Lakeway Publishers, Inc., of which R. Jack Fishman is president; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, Lakeway Publishers, Inc., the *Tribune's* parent company, acquired newspaper groups in Middle Tennessee, Missouri, Florida, and Virginia; with the addition of the Sun Publications acquisition, the company now operates thirty-one newspapers of general circulation and several specialty and general publications and maintains a full digital presence on the Internet and mobile devices; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly honor the *Citizen Tribune* for its many accomplishments throughout the past fifty years in its journey to become one of the finest newspapers in the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the *Citizen Tribune* upon the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary and thank the staff and owners of the newspaper for their endeavors to provide quality news coverage for the good people of the Lakeway Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.